

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A percutaneous insertion-capable lead having a plurality of terminals and a plurality of conductors, such lead being adapted to pass through a percutaneous introduction structure for insertion into a human body, the lead further comprising:

a body defining a paddle structure that is substantially defined by two principal opposing planar surfaces; and

a plurality of electrodes; and

a channel extending from a proximal end of the lead to a position within the body of the lead, wherein the channel is adapted to receive a stylet,

wherein one of the two planar surfaces incorporates the plurality of electrodes, and a conductor of the plurality of conductors electrically couples one terminal of the plurality of terminals with at least one electrode of the plurality of electrodes, and

wherein a greatest transverse dimension of the body of the lead when outside the percutaneous introduction structure is less than a corresponding interior dimension of the percutaneous introduction structure.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) A lead in accordance with Claim [[2]] 1, wherein the body of the lead has a varying cross-sectional moment of inertia.

4. (Currently Amended) A percutaneous insertion-capable lead having a distal end portion and a proximal end portion, such lead being adapted to pass through a percutaneous introduction structure for insertion into a human body, the lead further comprising:

a plurality of terminals positioned at the proximal end portion;

a paddle-shaped body positioned at the distal end portion, wherein the body of the lead includes two principal opposing substantially planar surfaces;

a plurality of electrodes, which are carried on one of the two principal surfaces of the body of the lead;

a channel extending from a proximal end of the lead to a position within the body of the lead, wherein the channel is adapted to receive a stylet; and

a plurality of conductors, wherein a conductor of the plurality of conductors electrically couples one terminal of the plurality of terminals with at least one electrode of the plurality of electrodes, and

wherein the body of the lead has a varying transverse dimension that enables flexibility in a plane substantially parallel to the principal surfaces of the body of the lead and provides steerability of the lead, and

wherein a greatest transverse dimension of the body of the lead when outside the percutaneous introduction structure is less than a corresponding interior dimension of the percutaneous introduction structure.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) A method of placing a lead in a human, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a lead, such lead comprising:

a body having two principal surfaces arranged opposite to one another, each of such surfaces being substantially planar region, and wherein a greatest transverse dimension of the body of the lead when outside a percutaneous introduction structure is less than a corresponding interior dimension of [[a]] the percutaneous introduction structure;

a plurality of terminals;

a plurality of electrodes positioned relative to one principal surface of the body;

and

a plurality of conductors, wherein a conductor electrically couples one terminal of the plurality of terminals with at least one electrode; and

a channel extending from a proximal end of the lead to a position within the body,
and this channel is adapted to receive a stylet;

percutaneously accessing a site proximate to a desired lead placement site through formation of an access passage using the percutaneous introduction structure; and

directing the lead through the access passage to the desired lead placement site.

7. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with Claim 6, ~~wherein the lead further comprises a channel extending from a proximal end of the lead to a position within the body, and this channel is adapted to receive a stylet, and~~ wherein the step of directing includes using a stylet within the channel to steer the lead to the desired lead placement site.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of placing a lead in a human, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a lead, such lead comprising:

a body having two principal surfaces arranged opposite to one another, each of such surfaces being substantially planar, and at least one waisted region, and wherein a greatest transverse dimension of the body of the lead when outside a percutaneous introduction structure is less than a corresponding interior dimension of [[a]] the percutaneous introduction structure;

a plurality of terminals;

a plurality of electrodes positioned relative to one principal surface of the body;

and

a plurality of conductors, wherein a conductor electrically couples one terminal of the plurality of terminals with at least one electrode; and

a channel extending from a proximal end of the lead to a position within the body,
and this channel is adapted to receive a stylet;

percutaneously accessing a site proximate to a desired lead placement site through formation of an access passage using the percutaneous introduction structure; and

directing the lead through the access passage to the desired lead placement site.

9. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with Claim 8, ~~wherein the lead further comprises a channel extending from a proximal end of the lead to a position within the body, and this channel is adapted to receive a stylet, and wherein the step of directing includes using the stylet within the channel to steer the lead to the desired lead placement site.~~

10. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the at least one waisted region enables a flexibility of the body to enhance steerability of the lead.

11. (Currently Amended) A percutaneous insertion-capable lead having a distal end portion and a proximal end portion, such lead being adapted to pass through a percutaneous insertion structure for insertion into a human, the lead further comprising:

a plurality of terminals positioned at the proximal end portion;

a paddle-shaped body positioned at the distal end portion, wherein the body includes two principal opposing substantially planar surfaces and at least one waisted region, and wherein a greatest transverse dimension of the body of the lead when outside the percutaneous introduction structure is less than a corresponding interior dimension of the percutaneous introduction structure;

a plurality of electrodes, which are carried on one of the two principal surfaces of the body; and

a plurality of conductors, wherein a conductor of the plurality of conductors electrically couples one terminal to the plurality of terminals with at least one electrode of the plurality of electrodes; and

a channel extending from a proximal end of the lead to a position within the body, wherein the channel is adapted to receive a stylet.

12. (Original) A lead in accordance with Claim 11, wherein the at least one waisted region is formed by a narrowing of the body in a transverse direction.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) A percutaneous insertion-capable lead having a plurality of terminals and a plurality of conductors, such lead being adapted to pass through a percutaneous introduction structure for insertion into a human body, the lead further comprising:

a body defining a paddle structure that is substantially defined by two principal opposing planar surfaces and at least one waisted region;

a first electrode and a second electrode; and

a channel extending from a proximal end of the lead to a position within the body of the lead, wherein the channel is adapted to receive a stylet,

wherein one of the two planar surfaces incorporates the first electrode and the second electrode, and a conductor of the plurality of conductors electrically couples one terminal of the plurality of terminals with at least a one of the first electrode and second electrode,

wherein a greatest transverse dimension of the body of the lead when outside the percutaneous introduction structure is less than a corresponding interior dimension of the percutaneous introduction structure, and

wherein the waisted region is positioned between the first electrode and the second electrode.

15. (Previously Presented) A lead in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising:
at least one waisted region positioned between two of the plurality of electrodes.
16. (Currently Amended) A lead in accordance with Claim 4 ~~wherein the varying transverse dimension has a greatest transverse dimension of the lead that is less than a corresponding interior dimension of the percutaneous introduction structure, and~~ the lead further comprises at least one waisted region formed by a narrowing of the body in a transverse direction.
17. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 6 wherein the body further comprises at least one waisted region positioned between two of the plurality of electrodes.
18. (Previously Presented) The lead in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising:
a serial arrangement of a plurality of waisted regions extending substantially a length of the paddle structure.
19. (Previously Presented) The lead in accordance with Claim 4 further comprising:
a serial arrangement of a plurality of waisted regions extending substantially a length of the paddle-shaped body.